

REMARKS

New claims 24 to 29 have been added to describe additional combinations of features that are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art. The new claims are fully supported by Figs. 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 and the description thereof in the specification, and by original claims 1-4 and 11-12. With respect to the embodiment of Fig. 13, the "support member" of claim 27 comprises the clutch disk 249. With respect to the embodiment of Fig. 9, the "support member" of claim 28 comprises the clutch disk 149. None of the new claims are believed to involve any new matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered, that the application as so amended be examined on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes that an interview may serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney would greatly appreciate a call at the telephone number given below.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

It is not believed that an extension of time, or any fees other than those presented herewith, are required. However, in the event that extensions of time are necessary, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and any additional fees required for consideration of this paper, including fees for the net addition of claims, are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 080719.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Jan. 8, 2004



Townsend M. Belser, Jr.

Attorney for Applicant

Reg No. 22,956

Nexsen Pruet Adams Kleemeier, LLC

P.O. Drawer 2426

Columbia, SC 29202-2426

Phone: 843-577-9440